

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4897
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
GUIDELINES FOR AID TO NGOS
BRAHMANAND MANDAL

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been issued by the Union Government for providing assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations and Voluntary Organisations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the functioning of these Organisations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND POWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the guidelines are as under:-

To support projects run by good NGOs working in unserved areas, and to widen intervention with a view to bring about healthy sectoral growth in areas where little or no attention has been focused so far.

To ensure that the spread of assistance is equitably meted out and keeping in view the scarce resources available, encourage the voluntary organizations to mobilize their own financial support system to sustain their activities, the basic intent being that voluntary organizations should not solely rely on aid from the Government.

The desired object for the voluntary organizations is therefore not only to sustain their activities financially but also to involve all resources available to them including community support and their involvement.

The voluntary organizations shall attempt to recover user charges from beneficiaries on a graded scale which shall be income related.

The guidelines make it clear that the funding pattern will be on a reducing basis. Voluntary organizations that have been assisted in respect of projects for a period in excess of five years will be funded on a tapering scale such that over a period of ten years the grant assistance from the Ministry will stand terminated.

The guidelines also envisages improvement on the mechanism of monitoring and evaluation. Intensive monitoring has been suggested rather than merely depending on the reports from the State Government.

In acknowledgement of the need to build up a data base on voluntary activity, the guidelines spell out the Ministry's intent to maintain an exclusive data base on voluntary organizations that would serve as valuable information on the voluntary organizations regarding their capacity, reach, area of expertise and involvement as well as their strengths and capacity.

Monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the NGOs receiving grant-in-aids carried out through inspections by the representatives of the State Governments, nodal agencies and Ministry's own officials. In order to further improve this process, formats for reporting of work done by the NGOs themselves and the proforma for inspections has been revised to get improved quality of data, which reduce the chances of defalcation of funds. Other measures being adopted are inter alia improving publicity of releases made so that the work of the NGOs comes under public scrutiny resulting in improved accountability, increase in frequency of inspections for effective monitoring etc.